
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



December 3, 2023 – Advent I
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

Welcome to worship!
We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.

We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. We acknowledge their care of the land and gives our thanks for their conservancy.

Prayers in this service are *adapted from prayers*
by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (arr. Cindy Berry)

Entrance of Garlands – God's Unending Embrace

*Opening Hymn **All Earth is Waiting** VU 5

Call to Worship

One: In God's house, we can be joyful.

All: We can be grateful. We can be hopeful.

One: In God's house, we can be weary.

All: We can be anxious. We can be grieving.

One: In God's house, we can be honest—

**All: inspired or tired, delighted or doubtful,
connected or curious, and everything in between.**

One: This is God's house.

You are welcome exactly as you are.

**All: Let us worship our loving God
who embraces all that we are.**

Lighting our Advent Wreath

One: How does a weary world hope?

**All: By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that
will bloom in the spring.**

One: By praying for children as they grow,
By picking up trash on the sidewalk,
by caring about the world around us.

All: By insisting that small acts can make a difference.

One: There are a million ways to practice hope,
to bring about the world we want to live in.
So today we light the candle of hope as a
reminder and a charge.

**All: With God's help, may we bring hope
into a weary world. Amen.**

Sung Response **Between Darkness and Light**

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First time: Solo, Second time: All

***Between darkness and light I will always walk;
and wherever I will go,
I will open a window of light,
and plant the seeds of love.***

Story Time - The Symbol of Wreaths and Poinsettias

Youth and Children are invited to head out to Sunday School!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading (CEB) **Luke 1:5-23**

⁵During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. ⁶They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. ⁷They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. ⁸One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. ⁹Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. ¹⁰All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. ¹¹An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear. ¹³The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the Lord's eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. ¹⁶He will bring many

Israelites back to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of parents back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in God’s presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. ²⁰ Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn’t believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen.” ²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long time. ²² When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn’t speak. ²³ When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home.

Anthem

God’s Surprise

(John Bell and Graham Maule)

*Who would think that what was needed
To transform and save the earth
Might not be a plan or army,
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision,
That a child should lead the way?*

Refrain: God surprises earth with heaven,
Coming here on Christmas Day.

*Shepherds watch and sages wonder,
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;
Such a place as none would reckon
Hosts a holy helpless thing;
Stabled beasts and passing strangers
Watch a baby laid in hay: Refrain*

*Centuries of skill and science
Span the past from which we move,
Yet experience questions whether,
With such progress, we improve.
In our search for sense and meaning,
Lest our hopes and humour fray, Refrain*

Reflection-How Can I Be Sure: *Acknowledging our Weariness*

Revised Words by Barbara K. Lundblad

***O come, O come Immanuel
And bless each place your people dwell
Melt every weapon crafted for war
Bring peace upon the earth forever more***

Refrain ***Rejoice! Rejoice! Take heart and do not fear,
God's Chosen One, Immanuel draws near.***

***O come, green shoot of Jesse, free
Your people from despair and apathy;
Forge justice for the poor and meek,
Grant safety for the young ones and weak.*** Refrain

***O come, now living water, pour your grace
And bring new life to every withered place
Speak comfort to each trembling heart:
"Be strong! Fear not, for I will ne'er depart."*** Refrain

***O come, dear child of Mary, come
God's word made flesh within our earthly home
Love stir within the womb of night
Revenge and hatred put to flight.*** Refrain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Thank you to all those who support the ministry of SJR through time, talents, and treasures. As the ushers pass along the offering plates we invite those who give through PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance and those who give a monthly gift, to please put a card into the plate so we can celebrate your generosity. Information on how to sign up to donate by PAR can be obtained through the office mail @sjruc.ca 519-742-1002.

For those who wish to donate online through Canada Helps, please visit our website sjruc.ca or scan this QR code:



Offertory **But Who May Abide** from *Messiah* (G.F. Handel)
Simone Lemieux, solo

*But who may abide the day of His coming,
and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.*

* Offering Response **All Poor Ones** VU 68 v1
**1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him laid rich gifts around
him, yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.
Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

*Dedication of the Offering

Prayers of the People

Christmas Tree - A Symbol of Everlasting Life

When you arrived at church, you were given a Christmas ornament and a piece of paper to write the name of someone you're thinking of this Christmas. It could be someone who has died, someone you are worried about or thinking about, maybe even yourself. Write name(s) on the Christmas ornament, to hang them on our tree, connecting our prayers with new life. When you are ready, please come forward to help us decorate.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* Closing Hymn **Born in the Night** VU 95

* Commissioning – Lights

* Choral Benediction **It Came Upon the Midnight Clear** VU44

**Verse 1: It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!'**

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Please remain seated in silence as we conclude our service with the postlude.

* * *

Printed copies of this Sunday's message are available
in the Narthex for you to take home or share.

* * *

Gather, Gab & Mingle after the service today!

Come and enjoy some refreshments together
in the Rainbow Room after the service!



FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec. 5 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Dec. 7 **55+ Exercise Class** 9:30 a.m. SJR Gym
- Dec. 7 **Choir Rehearsal** – Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Dec. 10 **Worship Service: 2nd Advent** White Gift Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
in support of oneRoof Youth Services
- Dec. 10 **Outdoor Memory Tree & Caroling** at 7 pm
- Dec. 12 **UCW Christmas Dinner:** 5:45 pm
- Dec. 12 **UCW Candlelight Communion Service** - 7 pm
- Dec. 13 **Executive Board Mtg.** – Parlour 7 pm *note Wed. date.*
- Dec. 14 **Final Pickup for oneRoof** 6 - 7 pm
- Dec. 17 **Worship Service: 3rd Advent** Lessons & Carols – 10:30 am
- Dec. 24 **Worship Service: 4th Advent** Love & Memory Service – 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Family Christmas Service - 6 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service – 8 pm

Check the bulletin board & the website sjruc.ca for upcoming events.

IN OUR CHURCH

Cookie Walk A heartfelt thank you to our bakers, buyers and volunteers. Without you this wonderful event wouldn't be possible!



Church Mouse Newsletter: A new edition has been published! If you have requested a paper copy, it can be found in the box in the Narthex with your name on it. Spare copies are available for visitors as well in a separate stand in the Narthex. If you would to be added to the list of people who receive a link to the emailed copy, please contact the office: mail@sjruc.ca

Thank you Looking for a great Stocking Stuffer? Grace Alton has the perfect one. Handmade calendars that will appeal to everyone! \$5 each and the proceeds will go to the Mission & Service Fund. She will be selling them before & after church in the Narthex. Be sure to have a look!

2024 Donation Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex. Need envelopes? Contact the office mail@sjruc.ca or 519-742-1002.

A Huge Thank You for donations and the volunteer participation for our first Sharing Place at St. Luke's Lutheran Church November 24 & 25!!!!"

Sanctuary Christmas Flowers: To remember a loved one by contributing to the Christmas Flower Fund, please add your name to the form in the Narthex and place your donation of \$10 in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" on the collection plate **by Sun. Dec. 17th**. A list of donors will be posted on the bulletin board in the office foyer and printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Tax receipts will be issued. Questions? Contact the church office: mail@sjruc.ca or 519-742-1002.

UCW Christmas Dinner & Candlelight Communion Tuesday, December 12th.
We have ordered a delicious turkey dinner from DeliWorks. **Join us at 5:45pm for dinner & conversation. The Candlelight Communion Service begins at 7:00pm.** All women are welcome! The catered dinner and desserts "Potluck Style" (bring your own dishes and cutlery - beverages provided) will be \$25 per person. Gluten-free options are available. Call Muriel or Jan to book your dinner **by December 4th**. Put your payment in an envelope marked "UCW CHRISTMAS DINNER" and drop it off at the church or call Bernice to get instructions on paying by e-transfer. All dinners must be pre-paid.

SJRUC's Annual Fundraiser for OneRoof Youth Services is running until **Thursday evening December 14th**. A table is in the foyer to collect donated items. Please check the list provided for items most appreciated by oneRoof. Financial donations are also greatly appreciated. If donating by cheque make it payable to SJRUC, and if donating cash make sure to indicate the purpose of the donation and your name (for tax receipt) on the accompanying envelope. Pickup of donated items will be in the church parking lot Thursday, December 14th, 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Currency for Kids Over \$2 Billion in global currency is likely to be found in homes across Canada. These are coins or bills left in the bottom of your suitcase from a trip, or the junk drawer, or in your desk. The UCW invites you to find those forgotten coins and bring them to SJR to support Family & Children's Services of the Waterloo Region! On Sundays look for the green collection bin in the foyer on the table.

Annual Committee Reports are due at the SJR Office no later than **Dec. 31, 2023**. (Email mail@sjruc.ca - either in a Word document or email.)

Send a Christmas Greeting to a member of the Canadian Armed Forces this Christmas season: Any Canadian Forces Member,
P.O. Box 5140. Stn Forces, Belleville ON K8N 5W6

Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" Grand Philharmonic Choir & musicians of the KW Symphony on **Saturday, Dec. 9/23 at 7:30 pm** present J. S. Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" at the Center in the Square. Details on the bulletin board in foyer.

K-W Singers presents "Hear the Sleigh Bells Ring Out!" Calvin Presbyterian Church 248 Westmount Rd. E. Kitchener. Director: Jennifer Carter Accompanist: Donna Mak **Sunday Dec. 3, 2:00 pm** Adults \$20 16 & under \$10.